Willmore Wilderness Park

The Willmore Wilderness Park, with an area of 1.4 million hectares, is the largest Provincial Recreation Area in Alberta. It is a vast wilderness area lying between the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, south of Jasper National Park. This park is one of the few provincial parks that consists of wilderness area. The park is named after the Willmore Range, a range of mountains that runs north-south through the park.

Unique features of the Willmore Wilderness Park include:
- The largest single body of water in Alberta, the Smoky River, which flows through the park.
- The highest peak in the park, Mount Assiniboine, which rises to 2,724 meters.
- The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including elk, moose, and grizzly bears.
- The park is known for its excellent fishing opportunities.
- The park is a popular destination for hiking, horseback riding, and backcountry camping.

The Willmore Wilderness Park has three major staging areas for both hikers and horseback riders, all reached off Highway 40 to the north:
- The Sulphur Gates staging area, located on the east side of the park.
- The Mount Assiniboine staging area, located on the west side of the park.
- The Athabasca River staging area, located on the south side of the park.

The park is open year-round, but the best time to visit is during the summer months when the weather is warm and the trails are dry. The park is closed to motorized vehicles, and all trails are for non-motorized use. Backcountry camping is allowed, but it is important to camp in designated backcountry campsites and to leave no trace.

The park is home to a variety of wildlife, including elk, moose, and grizzly bears. The park is also a popular destination for fishing, with the Smoky River providing excellent opportunities.

The Willmore Wilderness Park is a great place to spend a few days in the wilderness, away from the crowds of Jasper National Park. The park is easily accessible from the town of Hinton, located on Highway 40, and is a great destination for anyone looking for a wilderness experience.

Map: The Willmore Wilderness Park is located between the North and South Saskatchewan Rivers, south of Jasper National Park. The map shows the major staging areas and a variety of trails, including hiking and backcountry camping trails.

Legend:
- Provincial recreation area
- Urban
- Rail
- Secondary & gravel roads
- Old roads and trails
- Cross-country skiing
- Campground
- Backcountry campsite
- Historic site
- River
- Water
- Government of Alberta

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Know Before You Go

The Willmore Wilderness Park is a vast wilderness area with a variety of trails and activities. Before visiting, it is important to plan your trip and check the weather forecast.

Precautions:
- Wear appropriate clothing and footwear.
- Bring enough food and water.
- Bring a map and compass.
- Check the weather forecast before leaving.
- Be prepared for all types of weather conditions.
- Leave no trace.
- Respect the wildlife.

Safety:
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- Stay on the trails.
- Be respectful of other visitors.

Provincial Trails
- Sulphur Gates Trail
- Mount Assiniboine Trail
- Athabasca River Trail

For more information, please visit the Alberta Parks website: www.alberta.ca